

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00909 171842Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----171843 081956 /43

O R 171750Z FEB 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1779  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T USNATO 0909

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS  
SUBJECT: NATO AEW: IMPACT ON NATO AEW OF POSSIBLE REVISION IN THE  
US E-3A FORCE

REF: STATE 36127 DTG 170140Z FEB 77

1. AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE  
OF THE NATO AEW PROGRAM, I BELIEVE THAT CHANGES IN THE US  
AWACS PROGRAM OF THE KIND SUGGESTED REFTEL AT MINIMUM WOULD  
BE EXTREMELY UNSETTLING AND AT WORST COULD SERIOUSLY HARM  
THE PROSPECTS FOR A NATO AEW SYSTEM. ANY SUCH CHANGES WOULD  
LIKELY BE INTERPRETED BY OUR ALLIES AS REFLECTING A DIMUNI-  
TION OF US CONVICTION ABOUT THE USEFULNESS OF THE SYSTEM.  
MOREOVER, A SLOWER US PRODUCTION RATE COULD RESULT IN IN-  
CREASED COSTS FOR THE NATO PROGRAM. FINALLY, TERMINATION  
OF THE US PRODUCTION RUN AT THE END OF FY 77 WOULD RAISE  
THE NATO PROGRAM COSTS AND WOULD SHIFT THE REQUIRE-  
MENT FOR NATO FUNDS TO THE EARLY YEARS OF THE NATO  
PROGRAM, FURTHER EXACERBATING THE FRONT-END FUNDING  
PROBLEM WHICH ALREADY EXISTS BECAUSE MOST ALLIES  
HAVE NOT PROGRAMMED FUNDS FOR NATO AEW.

SECRET

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2. THE SLOW-DOWN OPTION, SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 1A  
OF THE REFTEL, WOULD PROVOKE SOMEWHAT LESS ALLIED CONCERN,  
BUT I BELIEVE THAT EITHER WOULD HAVE NEGA-  
TIVE CONSEQUENCES.

3. THUS, I RECOMMEND AGAINST MAKING ANY CHANGE IN  
THE US AWACS PROGRAM WHICH COULD BE MISINTERPRETED  
BY OUR ALLIES AS SUGGESTING THE US IS HAVING SECOND  
THOUGHTS ABOUT EITHER THE US OR NATO AEW PROGRAMS.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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